

County of Los Angeles

Sheriff's Department Headquarters 4700 Ramona Boulevard Monterey Park, California 91754–2169



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

January 11, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CENTRALIZED HOUSING AND CLASSIFICATION QUARTERLY UPDATE

On January 17, 2006, your Board requested that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) provide quarterly updates on the new centralized housing and classification system for inmates, including implementation and adherence of new protocols and policies, the timeliness and accuracy of reclassifications, and ongoing staff training.

Since the last quarterly report to your Board dated October 18, 2007, the two Central Housing Units (North and South) have continued their daily monitoring of the various inmate populations that must be housed separately due to security level or special handling status. The regular movement of these groups of inmates into housing locations that better reflect their growing (or decreasing) population numbers will thereby maximize the use of available beds within each jail facility.

On October 12, 2007, the final remaining unused compound at the Pitchess Detention Center (PDC) South facility was reopened, adding an additional 204 medium security beds. These beds were immediately filled with older inmates (40+ years old).

On October 22, 2007, the PDC South facility was evacuated due to the wildfires in the Santa Clarita Valley. The Central Housing Unit - North coordinated the evacuation and rehousing of over 1400 inmates from the PDC South facility. The Central Housing Unit - South coordinated the housing of over 400 of the displaced inmates at the Men's Central Jail. Once the danger had passed, the two Central Housing Units coordinated the return of the evacuated inmates to the PDC South facility. The PDC South facility was completely repopulated on October 26, 2007.

During this period, the Department began exploring options to ease female inmate overcrowding. One-hundred and fifty (150) female inmates were transferred from the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) to the Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF). Logistical and operational issues in keeping a female population in the midst of a male facility necessitated the return of the female inmates to CRDF within a month of their initial transfer. While this housing experiment was occurring, the Central Housing Units analyzed the housing process and bed usage at CRDF and made recommendations aimed at increasing the number of available general population beds. This increase in available beds not only facilitated the return of the 150 female inmates from the TTCF, but allowed an additional 92 beds at CRDF to be used to house pre-arraigned male inmates booked by the California Highway Patrol, as well as the Department's Century, Lennox, and Compton Sheriff's Stations.

The Central Housing Units are a fully integrated and critical component of the inmate housing process within the Los Angeles County Jail system. From monitoring the timely processing of inmates within the Inmate Reception Center, to maintaining the integrity of security-level based housing, to ensuring the most efficient use of the limited number of inmate beds available, the Central Housing Units' work increases jail safety and security and reduces Department liability.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Acting Chief Alexander Yim, Correctional Services Division, at (213) 893-5018.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA

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SHERIFF